

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 18 and 19 are pending in the present application. Claim 10 has been amended. Claims 13-17 have been canceled.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Enclosed is a copy of a Claim of Priority Letter dated July 12, 2004, filed along with a certified copy of Japanese Priority Application 2003-002476. Also enclosed is a copy of the dated, stamped postcard receipt provided as evidence that the Claim of Priority Letter has been received by the U.S. Patent Office. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and to confirm that the Claim for Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119 is complete.**

Information Disclosure Statement

Enclosed are copies of an Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 filed on December 1, 2004, in connection with the above identified application. Also enclosed is a copy of the dated, stamped postcard receipt provided as evidence that the Information Disclosure Statement was received by the U.S. Patent Office. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement, and to confirm that the corresponding documents have**

been considered and will be cited of record.

Drawings

Enclosed are eight (8) Drawing Replacement Sheets. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and approval of the Drawing Replacement Sheets.**

Claim Objections

Claims 13 and 14 have been objected to in view of the informalities as listed on page 2 of the current Office Action. Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Lin reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,489,656).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 1-12, 18 and 19 are allowed.

Claim 10 has been amended merely to improve antecedent. Since it should be

clear that this claim has been amended merely to improve form rather than to further distinguish over the prior art of record, particularly in view of the Examiner's acknowledgement of allowability of claim 10, this Amendment should not be construed narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

Applicants also respectfully note that claims 13-17 have been canceled merely to advance prosecution of this application.

Conclusion

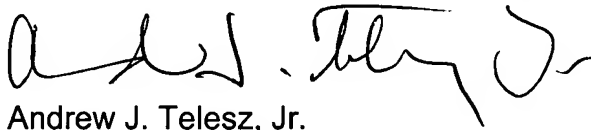
The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCO & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
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Enclosures: Copy of Claim of Priority Letter
Copy of dated, stamped postcard receipt
Copies of Information Disclosures Statement and PTO-1449 Form
Copy of dated, stamped postcard receipt
Eight (8) Drawing Replacement Sheets